

1. (Currently Amended) A medication system for performing at least one health safety function, the system comprising:

at least one container for holding doses of medication, the container having a container memory device containing specifying information useable to determine a prescribed dosing regimen for the medication;

a reminder device including:

(i) a communication device;

(ii) a timing device;

(iii) a reminder device memory; and

(iv) a processor and an associated surface, the processor for receiving the specifying information ~~via radio frequency technology~~ when the container memory device is proximate the surface, the processor linked to the timing device and the reminder device memory and linkable to the communication device;

wherein, prior to an initial time the specifying information has not been received by the processor and the prescribed dosing regimen information is not stored in the reminder device memory, at the initial time the container memory device is disposed proximate the first surface and the processor receives the specifying information for the first time, the first time the processor receives the specifying information, the processor using the specifying information to ~~identify~~ obtain prescribed dosing regimen information from a location other than the reminder device memory and performing at least one health safety function as a function of the prescribed dosing regimen information;

wherein, the processor further uses the at least a portion of the prescribed dosing regimen information to determine a predetermined time to take the medication, uses the timing device to identify a predetermined time, and causes the communication device to indicate when the predetermined time occurs.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Cancelled).
4. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8 wherein the container is supportable adjacent the surface such that the memory device is adjacent the surface.
5. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 4 wherein the container includes a container surface that faces the associated surface ~~is a sensor surface,~~ when the container is supported adjacent the associated surface ~~the container includes at least one facing container surface adjacent the sensor surface.~~
6. (Cancelled).
7. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the surface includes an aligner for aligning the container with a portion of the surface.
8. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 7 wherein the aligner includes indicia on the surface.
9. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 7 wherein the facing surface has a first shape and the aligner has a second shape and the first and second shapes are essentially identical.
10. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 9 wherein the container is a vial.
11. (Cancelled).
12. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 154 wherein the timing device, processor, communication device and sensor form a portable device.

13. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 12 wherein the portable device includes a strap such that the device is wrist mountable.

14. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 154 wherein timing device, processor, communication device and sensor form a console for stationary use.

15. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the at least one container includes several containers, each container includes a memory device, the surface can be proximate more than one memory device at a time and, wherein, when more than one memory device is proximate the surface, the processor retrieves the specifying information from each of the memory devices.

16. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 154 further including an enclosure wherein the sensor and the sensing area are concealed within the enclosure and the communication device is outside the enclosure.

17. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the communication device includes a visual display.

18. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 15 further including a separate communication device for each of the several containers, the communication devices attached to the containers.

19. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 1 wherein the health safety function includes indicating when a medication is being consumed at a non-optimal time, the system further including a consumption indicator, the consumption indicator activatable to indicate when a dose of medication is to be consumed, wherein the processor receives and uses the specifying information to identify a predetermined prescribed time to take the medication, the processor monitors the consumption indicator to determine when a medication is to be consumed and, when a medication is to be consumed, the processor uses the timing device to determine if the time to consume is consistent with the predetermined time to consume.

20. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 19 further including a communication devices linkable to the processor and wherein, when the time to consume is inconsistent with the predetermined time to consume, the processor indicates that the medication should not be consumed at the time indicated by the consumption indicator.

21. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 20 wherein the indicator is activated when one of the specifying device is placed proximate the associated surface and the specifying device is removed from the associated surface.

22. (Currently Amended) A medication system for performing at least one health safety function, the system comprising:

at least one container for holding doses of medication, the container having a specifying device containing specifying information useable to determine a prescribed dosing regimen for the medication;

a reminder device including:

(i) a sensor defining a sensing area, the sensing area capable of receiving at least two specifying devices at the same time, the sensor for receiving the specifying information from each of the specifying devices within the sensing area ~~via RF communication~~; and

(ii) a reminder device memory; and

(iii) a processor linked to the reminder device memory;

wherein, prior to an initial time the specifying information has not been received by the processor and the prescribed dosing regimen information is not stored in the reminder unit memory, at the initial time, the memory device is disposed proximate the sensor and the sensor receives the specifying information and provides the specifying information to the processor for the first time, the first time the processor receives the specifying information, the processor using the specifying information to identify prescribed dosing regimen information from a location other than the reminder device memory and performing at least one health safety function as a function of the prescribed dosing regimen information.

23. (Original) The systems of claim 22 further including a communication device linkable to the processor the communication device capable of indicating any of the containers.

24. (Original) The system of claim 23 further including a timing device linked to the processor wherein, when more than one specifying device is within the sensing area, the processor receives and uses the specifying information for each specifying device in the sensing area to identify prescribed dosing regimen information and a predetermined time to take each of the medications, the processor uses the timing device to determine when the predetermined time occurs for each of the medications and the processor causes the communication device to indicate the medications to be consumed at the predetermined times.

25. (Original) The system of claim 24 wherein the sensing area includes at least first and second separate sensing areas for receiving specifying information from separate specifying devices.

26. (Original) The system of claim 25 wherein the communication device includes a separate visual warning indicator adjacent each of the sensing areas and, wherein, the communication device indicates which medication to consume by activating the visual warning indicator adjacent medication to be consumed.

27. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 24 wherein the sensor includes a sensor surface and the sensor surface includes a sensing section and a non-sensing section for each of the sensing areas, the sensing areas only adjacent the sensing sections and the sensor includes a separate aligner for each of the sensing sections distinguishing the sensing sections from the non-sensing section.

28. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 27 wherein the sensor defines a sensor surface, when containers are supported adjacent on the sensing surface the containers each include at least one facing surface adjacent the sensor surface, the specifying devices attached to the facing surfaces.

29. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 28 wherein the facing surfaces each have a first shape and the aligners each have a second shape and the first and second shapes are essentially identical.

30. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 22 wherein the specifying device is a bar code.

31. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 22 wherein the specifying device is an electronic memory device.

32. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 23 wherein the communication device includes at least one communication device for each container and a separate communication device is attached to each container.

33. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 28 wherein the processor periodically causes the sensor to scan the sensing area to identify specifying devices in the sensing area.

34. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 33 wherein each container includes a separate communication device and wherein the processor is linkable to the communication devices to control each communication device.

35. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 34 wherein the processor controls the communication device via wireless communication.

36. (Original) The system of claim 23 wherein the communication device includes a visual display.

37. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 22 also for use in recording medication consumption times, the system further including a readable and writable memory device and a consumption indicator that are linkable to the processor, the consumption indicator operable to obtain consumption time information which the processor records in the memory device.

38. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 37 wherein the sensor and consumption indicator are integral such that one of placing and removing a specifying device in the sensing area comprises operation of the consumption indicator.

39. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 37 wherein the memory device and the specifying device are integral.

40. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 23 wherein the processor is a remote server processor linkable to the sensor and the communication device via a computer network.

41-153. (Cancelled).

154. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 further including a sensor defining a sensing area adjacent the associated surface.



155. (Currently Amended) A method for use with a medication system for performing at least one health safety function wherein the medication system comprises at least one container for holding doses of medication, a communication device, a timing device and a processor that includes a reminder device memory and that is associated with a surface, the container having a container memory device containing specifying information useable to determine a prescribed dosing regimen for the medication, wherein the processor is linked to the timing device and the reminder device memory and is linkable to the communication device and wherein the dosing regimen information is not stored in the reminder device memory prior to a first time, the method comprising the steps of:

using the processor to perform the steps of:

at ~~an initial~~ a first time when the container memory device is disposed proximate the surface, receiving the specifying information ~~via radio-frequency technology~~;

when the processor receives the specifying information for the first time, using the specifying information to identify prescribed dosing regimen information without accessing the reminder device memory and performing at least one health safety function as a function of the prescribed dosing regimen information; and

using the prescribed dosing regimen information to determine a predetermined time to take the medication;

using the timing device to identify the predetermined time; and

causing the communication device to indicate when the predetermined time occurs.

156. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 155 wherein there are at least first and second containers containing first and second medications, respectively, each container having a memory device containing specific information, the step of receiving the specifying information including receiving the specifying information from each memory device and the step of performing at least one health safety function including at least one of determining the first and second medications can be consumed together and determining the first and second medications can be consumed at a common time.

157. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 155 wherein the step of performing at least one health safety function includes at least one of determining a patient is allergic to the medication, determining a medication consumption time should be modified based on at least one vital sign measurement, determining a medication consumption time should be modified based on instructions from a remote server, providing an alert when medication is consumed outside a specific time period, and storing and displaying consumption data.

158. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 155 wherein the step of performing at least one health safety function includes at least one of determining a medication consumption time should be modified based on a questionnaire, presenting messages based on medication consumed, and presenting questionnaires based on consumed medication.

159. (New) The system of claim 1 wherein the at least one health safety function includes the processor using the communication device to indicate the prescribed dosing regimen information when the predetermined time occurs.

160. (New) The system of claim 1 wherein the processor one of uses at least a portion of the specifying information as the prescribed dosing regimen information and uses the specifying information to obtain the prescribed dosing regimen information from a remote processor.

161. (New) The system of claim 1 wherein the reminder device includes at least one container receiving space for storing the container and wherein the specifying device is disposed proximate the associated surface when the container is stored in the container receiving space.

162. (New) The system of claim 161 wherein the processor obtains specifying information from a container memory device each time a new container is received in the container receiving space and wherein the processor associates prescribed dosing regimen information associated with the specifying information with the container receiving space.

163. (New) The system of claim 161 wherein the reminder device includes a plurality of container receiving spaces and a separate associated surface for each of the container receiving spaces and wherein, when a container is located in one of the container receiving spaces, the container memory device is proximate an associated surface and the processor obtains the specifying information from the container memory.

164. (New) A medication system for performing at least one health safety function, the system comprising:

at least one container for holding doses of medication, the container having a memory device containing specifying information useable to determine a prescribed dosing regimen for the medication;

a reminder unit that defines a plurality of distinct locations, the reminder unit including:

- (i) a separate sensor associated with each of the locations; and
- (ii) a processor and an associated surface, the processor for receiving the specifying information when the memory device is proximate the associated surface and receiving a location indication identifying one of the plurality of distinct locations when the at least one container is positioned at the at least one of the plurality of distinct locations, the processor linked to the separate sensors;

wherein, prior to an initial time, the specifying information has not been received by the processor, proximate the initial time the at least one container is disposed at a first of the plurality of locations and the processor receives the location indication identifying the first of the plurality of distinct locations and, at the initial time the memory device is disposed proximate the surface and the processor receives the specifying information for the first time, the first time the processor receives the specifying information and the temporally proximate location indication, the processor using the specifying information to identify prescribed dosing regimen information and associating the prescribed dosing regimen information with the first of the plurality of locations.

165. (New) The system of claim 164 further including a communication device and a timing device, the processor linked to the timing device and linkable to the communication device, wherein the processor further uses the prescribed dosing

regimen information to determine a predetermined time to take the medication, uses the timing device to identify the predetermined time and causes the communication device to indicate when the predetermined time occurs.

166. (New) The system of claim 164 wherein each sensor is capable of receiving specifying information from the container and wherein the associated surface includes a separate surface adjacent each of the sensors.

167. (New) The system of claim 165 further including a separate visual indicator adjacent each of the distinct locations and wherein the processor activates the visual indicator adjacent one of the distinct locations when a time specified by the prescribed dosing regimen information associated with the location indicates that a medication should be consumed.

168. (New) The system of claim 165 wherein the communication device includes a separate indicator adjacent each of the distinct locations.